

Department News – Students, Faculty and Staff

Honors/Awards

Tom Kurtz will become President-Elect for the Institute of Mathematical Statistics.

It was announced that **Deepayan Sarkar** won the 2004 Chambers Award sponsored by the Statistical Computing section of the American Statistical Association. This award, made possible by a generous donation by Dr. John M. Chambers, is given annually in recognition of outstanding contributions to statistical software by a student. Deepayan received the award for his lattice package for R. The award consists of a cash prize, a plaque, and paid registration to attend the Joint Statistical Meetings. Deepayan will formally receive the award during the Statistical Computing/Statistical Graphics sections' business meeting and mixer at the 2004 Joint Statistical Meetings in Toronto.

According to a survey by Thomson ISI, a leading citation indexing company, **Grace Wahba** was listed as one of 29 UW-Madison faculty members who are among the most cited researchers in their fields during the past two decades.

We were informed that **Chenlei Leng** (Ph.D. '04) was the recipient of a \$600 Vilas Travel Award.

2003-2004 Degree Recipients

Ph.D.

The following students completed or are expected to complete their Ph.D. degree by August 2004:

Hongyup Ahn (Advisor -- G. Reinsel)
Ernesto Barrios, (Advisor -- George Box)
Bin Cheng (Advisor – Jun Shao)
Columbia University
David Dahl (Advisor -- Michael Newton)
Texas A&M
Quan Hong (Advisor --Jun. Shao)
Eli Lilly
Amy Chunfang Jin (Advisor -- Brian Yandell)
Chenlei Leng (Advisor -- Grace Wahba)
Singapore
Ruojia Li (Advisor – Richard Johnson)
Shuangge Ma (Advisor -- Michael Kosorok)
Ming Yuan (Advisor -- Yi Lin)
Georgia Tech

M.S.

The following graduate students completed their M.S. degrees during 2003-2004:

Bo Hu, continuing in Ph.D. Statistics
Rui Song, continuing in Ph.D. Statistics
Ning Weng
Hongwei Xue, Dean Health Systems –
Madison WI
Yu Yuan, Ph.D. program at The Wharton School
Zhumin Zhang
Steven Gaffigan
Martin Heller
Nicholas Keuler
Lancine Konate, continuing in Ph.D., Statistics
Xiaolei Li, continuing Ph.D., in Statistics
Mariana Motta, continuing in Animal Science
Rickie Volland
Lei Wang
Xiaodan Wei, continuing in Ph.D., Statistics
Ruifeng Xu, continuing in Ph.D., Statistics
Yan Yu

B.S.

The following students received their Bachelor's degree with a major in Statistics during the 2003-2004 academic year:

Thomas Hoffman, Mark C. Kim, Alan J. Lazzaro, Ryan T. Lewis, I-Lin Lin, Timothy J. Sams, Bret O. Solberg

New Students with Assistantship

The Graduate Student Admissions Committee had a good year recruiting new graduate students to our department. The new students with assistantships are:

Borek, Ryan C. (USA)
Burgette, Lane (USA)
Carmichael, Lakeesha (USA)
Chung, Lisa M. (USA)
Green, Robert (USA)
Jiang, Deyuan (China)
Jiang, Yuan (China)
Kuan, Pei Fen (Malaysia)
Ma, Xiwen (China)
Meng, Jingci (China)
Neely, William (USA)
Yu, Tao (China)
Washington, Angelinia (USA)
Wilkinson, Mark (USA)
Zhang, Jun (USA)
Zheng, Wei (China)

Seminar Speakers for 2003-2004

The ongoing series of interesting seminar talks and speakers continued during 2003-2004. Several departmental faculty and other UW campus speakers took part in this colloquia. Numerous financial contributions enabled the Department to bring in many off-campus speakers as well. Titles of their talks are listed below:

[INTRODUCTION TO DEPARTMENT RESEARCH](#)

Rick Chappell, Rich Johnson, Bret Larget

[INTRODUCTION TO DEPARTMENT RESEARCH](#)

Yi Lin, Mary Lindstrom, Jun Zhu

[NON-PARAMETRIC BAYESIAN MCMC](#)

[INFERENCE AND PERFECT SIMULATION FOR SPATIAL POINT PROCESSES](#)

Jesper MØller, Department of Mathematical Sciences, Aalborg University, Denmark

[SMOOTHING ALONG VECTOR FIELDS](#)

Moo Chung

[CHARACTERIZING, MODELING AND ANALYZING RECURRENT EVENT DATA](#)

Mei-Cheng Wang, Department of Biostatistics, Johns Hopkins University

[NONPARAMETRIC ESTIMATION UNDER SHAPE CONSTRAINTS: MONOTONE, CONVEX, AND BEYOND](#)

Jon A. Wellner, Department of Statistics, University of Washington, Seattle

[A STATISTICAL REVOLUTIONARY: R.A. FISHER IN 1922](#)

Stephen Stigler, University of Chicago

[OUR DISCIPLINE, FEDERAL OPPORTUNITIES AND THE ASA](#)

William B. Smith, American Statistical Society

[IDENTIFYING ESSENTIAL GENES IN M. TUBERCULOSIS BY RANDOM TRANSPOSON MUTAGENESIS](#)

Karl W. Broman, Department of Biostatistics, Johns Hopkins University

[A COMPLEX WAY TO COMPUTE FMRI ACTIVATION](#)

Daniel B. Rowe, Department of Biophysics, Medical College of Wisconsin

[RANDOM WALK AND RANDOM AGGREGATION WITHOUT RANDOMNESS](#)

James Propp, UW Mathematics Department

[TWO-WAY LINEAR MODELS FOR MULTICENTER CLINICAL TRIALS](#)

[BIN CHENG A MACHINE LEARNING APPROACH TO ANALYSIS OF DESIGNED EXPERIMENTS](#)

Wei-Yin Loh

[NONPARAMETRIC MODELING OF HIERARCHICALLY EXCHANGEABLE DATA](#)

Peter Hoff, University of Washington

CAUSAL INFERENCE WITH GRAPHICAL TIME SERIES MODELS

Michael Eichler, Department of Statistics, University of Chicago

HIGH-DIMENSIONAL SEMILINEAR MODEL FOR ANALYSIS OF MICROARRAY DATA:

THEORETICAL EXPLORATION AND METHODOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

Jianging Fan, Department of Operations Research and Financial Engineering, Princeton University

INFERENCE WITH BALLS AND ENVELOPES

Chris Genovese, Department of Statistics, Carnegie Mellon University

ON PRICING EXPONENTIAL SQUARE ROOT BARRIER KNOCKOUT EUROPEAN OPTIONS

Haj Takahashi, Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo

SOME ASPECTS OF BOOSTING, Peter Bickel

PEARL HARBOR, THE PATRIOT ACT, AND THE 2010 CENSUS

Hermann Habermann, Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer of the United States Census Bureau

THE 5TH ANNUAL ABBOTT LABORATORIES DISTINGUISHED LECTURESHIP IN PHARMACEUTICAL APPLICATIONS: INFERENCE BASED ON ESTIMATING FUNCTIONS WITH U-STATISTIC STRUCTURE

Jack Kalbfleisch, University of Michigan

CAUSAL INFERENCE THROUGH POTENTIAL OUTCOMES: APPLICATION TO QUALITY OF LIFE STUDIES WITH "CENSORING" DUE TO DEATH

Donald Rubin, Harvard University

STATISTICS IN MOLECULAR EVOLUTION: THE COVARION MODEL

Cecile Ane, UC Davis

HIGHER ORDER ASYMPTOTICS IN PRACTICE

Nancy Reid, University of Toronto

Lecturers and Visitors

Visitors to our department during the academic year were: Haj Takahashi, Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo; Jesper Moeller, Denmark.

Our thanks go to Jens Eickhoff, Academic Staff, Biostatistics; Mary Lindstrom, Biostatistics, Gary Schroeder, Ruoqia Li, David Callan who served as lecturers for some of our courses during '03-'04.

Thanks to Donors

We would like to acknowledge the many generous contributions to the UW Statistics Department. This money is used in many ways to help fund several departmental activities. Contributors for 2003-2004 have been:

Graduate Student Support Fund

Wai Kwong Cheang (Ph.D. '00)
Yun-Fei Chen (Ph.D. '00)
Yap Sook Fwe (Ph.D. '93)
Chunyang Gai (Ph.D. '01) (matched by
Freddie Mac Foundation)
Feng Gao (Ph.D. '93) (matched by Pfizer)
Jianjian Gong (Ph.D. '97)
Kevin Gross (Ph.D. '03)
Kevin Guo (M.S. '94)
William J. Hill (Ph.D. '66)
Richard Johnson (Faculty)
Hongsuk Jorn (Ph.D. '86)
Edmund Kademan (Ph.D. '93)
Son Lin Lai (Ph.D. '70) & Lilly K. Lai
Bret & Ann Larget (Faculty)
Yoonkyung Lee (Ph.D. '02)
Youngsook Lee & Kyungmann Kim (Ph.D.
'85)
Richard Lewis (Ph.D. '83)
Yi Lin & Hong Luo (Faculty)
Christopher Morrell (Ph.D. '86)
Rick Nordheim (Faculty)
Soo-Min Park (Ph.D. '01) & Lei Shen
(Ph.D. '01)
Robert Mau (Ph.D. '96)
Grace Wahba & David Callan (Faculty)
Wing-Keung Wong (Ph.D. '89)

Eva Chen Wu

Herman Haberman Fund

Herman Haberman (Ph.D. '75)

Department Fund

Sung Ahn (Ph.D. '87)
Susan Anderson (M.S. '79)
Bruce Craig (Ph.D. '96)
R. Bruce Lind (Ph.D. '72)
Martin Matzinger (M.S. '94)
Timothy Montague (M.S. '92)
Marla (Dombroski) Smith (M.S. '86)
Jin Wang (Ph.D. '01) (matched by Forest
Products Laboratories Inc.)
Joanne (Ph.D. '92) & James (Ph.D. '83)
Wendelberger

**Eli Lilly Inc matches:
Soo-Min Park (Ph.D. '01)
Alan Chiang (Ph.D. '99)
Yili Lu (Ph.D. '95)
Kevin Guo (M.S. '94)
Rebecca Hozak (M.S. '01)
Wherly Peng Hoffman (Ph.D. '86)
Yun-Fei Chen (Ph.D. '00)

Our many thanks to all of those who made contributions!!

News From & About the Alumni

In October '03 we heard from **Christian Ritter** (Ph.D. '92) and **Linda Danielson** (M.S. '90). Christian is currently working at the Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL) and Shell. Linda, also a statistician, is currently the Head of Biostatistics at UCB Pharma.

Also in October '03 we heard from **Annie Guo** (M.S. '91). She expressed that writing to us was like getting back to the good old days in Madison. Annie lives in the San Francisco Bay area and works full-time at ICON Clinical Research. In addition to her full-time job, her 18-month-old toddler, Avelyn, is busy getting into everything in the house, and Mom has her hands full. "Seeing her grow up is the most rewarding thing in the world." Changing topics - this is not an ad - If anyone is interested in moving to sunny northern California, Annie's employer often has openings for statisticians and SAS programmers, and out-of-state candidates are welcome. He/she may contact Annie at GuoA@iconus.com.

Eric Tam (Ph.D. '96) wrote: I'm now father of 2 girls (age 3 and 1.5). Rachel, my younger daughter, was born on my birthday. I'm still trying to find the probability of parents sharing birthdays with their children. It so happens that at my work, the Human Resources Manager has a girl born on the same day as Rachel. The manager I work most closely with has his mother and his sister also sharing the same birthday AND it is mine and Rachel's, too!! As a statistician, I have to ask "What are the odds?" Eric was promoted to Director of Risk Management for CarMax Auto Finance in Kennesaw, GA. (Editor's note: Eric Tam returned to the Statistics Department to attend Greg Reinsel's funeral in May.)

In March of this year, **Johannes Ledolter** (Ph.D. '76) dropped by to visit a few faculty and office staff from his former days as a student here (the only office staff person being Candy). It was nice to see him after so many years.

We received a very nice Christmas letter from **Jean Adams** (M.S. '91). With a new house located on 10 acres, lots of wildlife (and mosquitoes), golf lessons, hunting, fishing, Jean never is at a loss for something to do.

A career move was made by former student **Shein-Chung Chow** (Ph.D. '86) from StatPlus to Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc. in Cambridge, MA. He is the Vice President of Biostatistics and Clinical Data Management. (His daughter will be attending the UW Law School in the fall.)

Kwok-Leung Tsui (Ph.D. '86), Professor, Georgia Institute of Technology, has been honored as a Fellow of the American Statistical Association in 2003, for significant contributions to robust parameter design, statistical process control, data mining, and industrial statistics; for a leading role in the interface between statistics and industrial engineering; and for service to the profession.

Irene Helenowski (M.S. '02) wrote: "Recently, I was in Krakow, Poland, in Jagellonian University, where I saw an exhibit with portraits of Polish scientists, including the famed statistician Jerzy Neyman."

Mary Esser and **Mary Ann Clark** were in Madison in May to attend Greg Reinsel's funeral service. Mary and her husband, Darwin, live in Neshkoro, WI where they moved after their retirement, both from the UW. Mary Ann and her husband live in Tomahawk, WI. Mary Ann and Jim will

celebrate their 50th anniversary this September. Congratulations!

Family News

Po-Shen Loh, son of ASA member **Wei-Yin Loh** and Theresa Loh is the recipient of multiple honors that will enable him to pursue his graduate study and research. A student at California Institute of Technology, Po-Shen grew up in Madison, Wisconsin, where his parents still reside. This academic year, Loh has been offered the National Science Foundation (NSF) award, a Churchill Scholarship, a Hertz fellowship, and a National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship.

For complete details about Po-Shen, see: <http://www.amstat.org/pressroom/index.cfm?fuseaction=poshenloh>

Message from **Yi Lin**: Katherine Lin was born at 6:29 p.m. on Friday, November 7. Her weight at birth was 7 lbs. 4 oz., and her length was 20 inches. Congratulations Yi and Hong and best wishes to Mom, Dad and Baby Katherine.

A baby girl, Ivy, was born November 26 to **Yulin Zhang** (current grad. student) a little earlier than expected. At birth, she weighed 5 lb. and 9 oz, measured 18.5 inches in length. Statistically her birth weight was in the lower 5% of girls born in the US. At 8 weeks she weighed 11 lb and 11 oz. She is in the upper 25% now!

Jun Zhu and her husband **Jens Eickhoff** had a baby boy on June 28. His name is Paul, and he weighed 9 lbs. 4 oz, and was 20" long. Congrats to the new proud parents!

Miscellaneous

Department T-shirt sale launched

A warm hello to all of you reading WISTAT NEWS.

For the first time ever, we are presenting a special Statistics Department T-shirt for sale! It is a culmination of the joint efforts of students and a lot of encouragement from the faculty, especially Professor Nordheim. The response to the t-shirt idea so far has simply been amazing, and now after months of trying to come up with the idea of how the t-shirt should look and what the color of the t-shirt should be, a consensus has been reached and here it is!

Let me describe it to you in detail....No guesses about the color....it must be Wisconsin red, right? The front of the T-shirt simply has a nice little logo "STATISTICS" printed in white below "UW-MADISON" on the left side of the t-shirt and a neat "statistical" bit appears on the back of the t-shirt in the form of a cool Gamma curve alongside its p.d.f with the statement "WHY BE NORMAL!" below the graph (all in white again).

Well, does that description make you want to take one home? I sure hope it does! For all of you interested in getting this cool Stat t-shirt for yourself or for someone else, at \$20 its not priced too steeply. To order, send \$20 to me, Nivedita Nadkarni, or Martin Heller stating your name, address, and size (S, M, L, XL, XXL).

Anyway, I hope that you liked reading this little piece on the recent development as far as the social enterprise aspect of the Department goes. Have a nice day.

----Nivedeta Nadkarni, Graduate Student---

Big news - It was the first annual Statistics-Sociology soccer game played in Oct. 2003 on the Eagle Heights soccer field. The score was 0-0. They played for the "Bootstrap Trophy", which the Stat Dept. kept for the Fall semester, then turned over to the Soc. Dept for the Spring semester. Our captain was Yi Lin, assisted by Behrang Vali. Kjell Doksum was in charge of refreshments (pizza, soft drinks and beer).



Standing: Yi Lin, Jason Fine, Lei Xu, Steve Stanhope, Erik Iverson, Behrang Vali, Fan Lu, Shiji Tang
Seated: Tim Grant, Bo Ho, Kjell Doksum, Shanhong Guan, Chenli Leng, Zhengxiao Wu, Lei Yue